As the supplementary demands are for urgent and unavoidable items of expenditure which are fully matched by corresponding savings. I am sure that this Hon'ble House would vote the demands.

Points raised by the hon. Members pertaining to other Ministries and departments will be forwarded to the concerned Ministries and departments for furnishing suitable replies direct to the hon. Members.

I request the hon. House to pass this Bill and return it to Lok Sabha.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): The question is:

> "That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1991-92, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideraton."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 and 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE: Sir, I move:

> "That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER

III. Re. Verification and evaluation of Customs Duty to a Multinational Company by the Government

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): Sir, some Hon'ble Members of the House alleged that there was a move by the Government to hand over the customs appraisement work to a Swiss multi-national Company at the behest of World Bank and IMF. I categorically deny that there is any such move.

As Hon'ble Members are aware, under-invoicing and over-invoicing take place in our imports and exports. This entails loss of revenue and foreign exchange. Invoice manipulations occur in the country of export. It, therefore, often becomes difficult for our Customs authoritites sitting in India to detect and establish this.

There are professional services which specialise in detecting these malpractices at the country of export itself. They do so by preshipment inspection of goods at the country of export before they are despatched. SGS, Lloyd's Register, etc., provide such specialised services.

SGS offered their services recently. They also held exploratory discussions with the Finance Ministry officials. To study thte system in operation on the spot, a team of two officials visited Singapore and Indonesia. The report of the delegation is under examination.

Sir, pre-shipment inspection, even as this phase implies is an inspection to be carried out in foreign ports before goods intended for being imported into India are actually shipped. Such an inspection is not carried out by our customs department or for that a matter, by any Indian authority today. It is in this area the SGS has claimed expertise and experience and offered their services. I would also like to point out that what the company has outlined to our customs authorities, is a package of services that they offer. They have not so far even come to the stage of indicating their charges for the services offered. Thus there is no

[Shri Rameshwar Thakur]

decision or commitment to use their services.

I also wish to categorically state that the World Bank or IMF or any other international Agency have had nothing to do with the proposal of SGS. What SGS stated was that they were prompted by the measures for industrial liberalisation introduced by the Government.

I wish to reassure the august House that the question of any adbication of customs authority does not arise Preshipment, only strengthens the hands of customs authorities in checking underinvoicing and over-invoicing. I further wish to reassure the august House that any decision in the matter will be taken keeping in view the best interests of the country and sentiments expressed by the Hon'ble Members.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Thanks to Mr. Kalita also in this regard. Sir, I raised the issue in this House last Monday by way of Special Mention. On Wednesday some hon. Members from this side and also from that side showed their concern about the customs evaluation being handed over to a private multinational company which is Swiss-based. Sir, the assurance given by the hon. Minister is a little encouraging, but when we go through the actual information it gives a different version. So far as the customs evaluation by a multinational company is concerned, it appears from the report that the Government is losing more than 2,000 crores of rupees by underinvoicing and overinvoicing by private importers; that does not apply to Government to Government imports, public sector undertakings and to some of the imports made by the Government. Sir, it is also further reported that the Government is going to pay Rs. 400 crores as one per cent commission for preshipment evaluation to this company. Sir, it is very clear that this Swiss-based company has got a network in 5 or 6 countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines and other countries. They have got a network system. All items that are imported by any country will be fed into the computer and this information is given to other countries through the world-wide network. Therefore, if any company or private agency gets the code number, all items which India is going to import will be known from the computer. Anybody can have access to that information. Even the arms and ammunitions which our country is going to import will be known to everybody. Now we are importing various items which are sophisticated and secret in nature. All this information will be available and will be exposed to others. The hon. Minister says that some of the officials visited Singapore and Indonesia. I would like to add some more information and I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he will confirm it or deny it. The officials of the Swiss-based company came to India. In a seminar they had a discussion with the hon. Finance Minister. He encouraged the idea and thereafter they met the hon. Commerce Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram. Then Shri Chidambaram directed them to contact the customs and excise officials. They met them and thereafter the Government deputed one delegation from India. They went to Indonesia, Singapore and other countries for the purpose of finding out how the evaluation is made by this company. They submitted the report. My information is that the Government has accepted the report submitted by the delegation, that is, the customs and excise officials. They have now decided to hand over the evaluation to this Swiss-based company. That is my information. But the hon. Minister says that it is under the stage of consideration and it has not been handed over to them. If that is the case; I will be very happy. We are very concerned about the security of this country. If whatever we import is exposed to the public or to any country then it means that we are not in a position to maintain the secrets of our country. Secondly, it will be known to the world that we have no faith in our customs officials. The customs officials have requested the Government to give them sophisticated electronic

7.00 P.M.

equipments for the purpose of finding out the goods that are being imported in the containers. But that was not done by the Government. And all of a sudden the Government wants the multi-national company to come over here. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the security point of view of this country has been taken into consideration while sending the delegation from India to find out how the evaluation is made by the Swiss-based company. Secondly, I would like to know whether you are going to spend more than Rs. 400 crores a year for the purpose of evaluating customs duty on various items by this company and whether you are prepared to spend that much money on that company. Thirdly, I cannot understand para-6 of the statement. In para-6 the hon. Minister states:

> "I also wish to categorically state that the World Bank or IMF or any other inter-national agency have had nothing to do with the proposal of SGS."

In the next sentence he states:

> "What SGS stated will that they were prompted by the measures for industrial liberalisation introduced by the Government."

The industrial liberalisation is introduced by this Government on the basis of the package the IMF and the World Bank have given. Now, indirectly the Minister admits that it is only under pressure from the World Bank and the IMF that this multi-national company is being invited for the purpose of customs evaluation. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this is one of the conditions which were imposed by the IMF and the World Bank that only this multi-national company should be utilised from the purpose of customs evaluation. Sir, it is going to be a cumbersome process. Our Customs officials will have no work. At the time of pre-shipment they will assess the customs duty and the goods will be imported here. They will put a seal on that. Sir, SGS seal will be put on the item. When it comes here, the Customs officials will not be in a position to collect customs duty from the importer unless and until the seal of the SGS company is there. Sir, this is going to be cumbersome process. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister his response to these three points which I have raised before him. I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister that this particular company or any other company will not be invited into this country for the purpose of evaluating customs duty.

श्री राम नरेश यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : महोदय, यह प्रश्न दो दिन तक इस हाऊस में रखा गया था और पूरे देश के लिए चिंता का विषय बन गया था। ऐसी स्थिति में जब भी हम आयात और निर्यात करते हैं तो इनवाईस और सारी चीजों में जो गड़बड़ी होती है उससे देश को नुकसान होता है। उस नुकसान को ठीक ढंग से देखने के लिए किसी बाहर की एजेंसी के जिम्मे यदि इस काम को सौंपा जाता है तो इसका मतलब यह होता है कि हम अपने देश के गौरव को दूसरे के हाथ में देने का काम करेंगे। यह बहुत चिंता का विषय बना हुआ था। हमें प्रसन्नता है कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने कैटेगरिकली इस बात को अपने वक्तव्य में बताया है कि उनका ऐसा कोई इरादा नहीं है और वे इस तरह से किसी दूसरे देश की एजेंसी की मदद इस मामले में नहीं लेंगे। उसके साथ-साथ उन्होंने यह कहा है कि वर्ल्ड बैंक और आई.एम.एफ. के दबाव में हम नहीं हैं लेकिन एक बात बहुत ही चिंतनीय है। उन्होंने अपने वक्तव्य के पैरा 2 में कहा है कि–

> "It, therefore, often becomes difficult for our Customs authorities sitting in India to detect and establish this."

हमारा कस्टम विभाग अपने को बिल्कुल असमर्थ पाता है। ऐसी स्थिति में जब कि हमारा वित्त मंत्रालय और कस्टम विभाग इस मामले में अपने को असमर्थ पाता है तो हमारा देश कैसे तरक्की

[श्री राम नरेश यादव]

करेगा? तो क्या माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी भारत को इस लायक बनाने का काम करेंगे कि जो इतनी क्षति होती है, उसकी पूर्ति के लिए अपने कस्टम विभाग के अधिकारियों को अधिकार देंगे ताकि हमें बाहर की एजेंसियों पर निर्भर न रहना पड़े।

दूसरी बात यह है कि यह बात सही है कि आप दूसरी कंपनियों को दे रहे हैं, उससे कैसे मुक्ति दिलाने का काम करेंगे। यह हमारी असमर्थता, हमारी विफलता और हमारी असहाय स्थिति का द्योतक है। हम चाहेंगे कि माननीय मंत्री जी इस बात को स्पष्ट करें कि किसी विदेशी कंपनी के हाथ में हम इस जांच करने के काम को किसी भी कीमत पर नहीं सौंपेंगे। यह आश्वासन मंत्री जी को देना चाहिए क्योंकि आज पूरे देश में यह चिंता है कि आपकी भारत सरकार तो आई.एम.एफ. और वर्ल्ड बैंक के इशारे पर चल रही है। यह इंप्रैशन अगर सब जगह गया तो हमारे देश के लिए यह खतरनाक बात होगी। इसलिए मैं चाहता हूं कि किसी भी कीमत पर किसी विदेशी एजेंसी के हाथ में इस काम को नहीं सौंपेंगे, यह कैटेगरिकल आश्वासन मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से चाहता हूं। यह मेरा आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से निवेदन है।

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Sir, I pity the Minister of State for Finance, Shri Rameshwar Thakur because he has taken two days to deny a complaint made on the floor of the House. Sir, you are aware when first this was raised in this House, Mr. Rameshwar Thakur himself was present. Yet Mr. Rameswar Thakur had preferred to remain silent and did not reply whether in denial or in acceptance. It has been denied in the first paragraph of the statement. Why he could not deny it on that day itself? What prevented him from denying it on that day itself if it was so simple as it is projected in the statement? He had to take two days to deny this. From the very first paragraph, it is very clear that the subject is not so simple as he has sought to project... (*Interruptions*). Whether it is pre-shipment inspection at the ports of export or any other job, it is a job of the State. The pre-shipment inspection of imports is a job of the State. It is not a job of any particular firm or any particular company. The proposal to hand over that part of the job of the State to some firm is a betrayal. This is very serious. For the purpose of collecting customs duty correctly, for the purpose of checking the underinvoicing or overinvoicing, handing the job over to a multi-national corporation is a betrayal. checking the underinvoicing or over invoicing is part of the collection of customs duty. What has been stated here, "pre-shipment inspection, even as this phrase implies, is an inspection to be carried out in foreign ports before goods intended for being imported into India are actually shipped". Why is it necessary? Why are we checking the over invoicing in the import bill? We are doing it because otherwise they will cause erosion in our collection of customs duty. Collection of customs duty is the job of the State and in order to ensure that customs duty is collected properly, there is no linkage. Over-voicing is part of the State job and that job is being handed over to a multi-national corporation. What is the reason? According to the Minister the inspection is not carried out by our customs department or for that matter by any Indian authority today. If that is so, can it not be done by the State? If it can be done by a multi-national company, can it not be done by the Government of India with 84 crores of people? The reason is ridiculous. Such an inspection is not carried out by our customs department or for that matter by any Indian authority today and hence hand it over to the multi-national. What prevented you from creating that authority? Who prevented the Government of India from creating such an authority for doing the job? You have a customs authority. You have the Indian embassy all over the world. You have consulates. What prevented you from creating an office there for undertaking this job? Who prevented you from putting a computer there in the Indian embassies? Today on the ground that there is no such Indian authority and the customs people were not doing that job, you are handing over

the job to a multi-national corporation. And tomorrow—Mr. Rameshwar Thakur is in charge of the Income Tax Department—if there is any leakage in the income tax or there is non-compliance of income tax or there is dodging of taxes in income tax Mr. Rameshwar Thakur will come over here day after tomorrow and say there is no authority to stop leakage or evasion of tax; so be it handed over to a multinational corporation.

SHRI VISHVJIT P. SINGH (Maharashtra): That was done by your Leader, not by us.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: And day after tomorrow, the Ministry of Finance itself will come if the Ministry of Finance is found to be lacking in doing a particular type of job. Then what will happen? Earlier, I was asking Mr. Jagesh Desai what does IMF stand for? It is International Monetary Fund. No. Now a days, in Delhi, it stands for International Ministry of Finance. And they are also working under that International Ministry of Finance. The North Block, the Ministry of Finance office, has been packed up with the people drafted from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The Budget has been prepared by the International Monetary Fund. The other day, the *Hindustan Times* had reported that the Budgets of India for 1992 and 1993 are being prepared by the IMF people. What is at stake is not the simple pre-shipment inspection. What is at stake is the sovereignty of our country and the independence of our country. It is not so simple as Mr. Rameshwar Thakur has projected in this statement. Money has to be paid to that company. He has stated that they have not even come to the stage of indicating their charges that their parties have made. Some charges have to be paid. How much is it? Mr. Narayanasamy has stated that 1 per cent comes to Rs. 400 crores. Even if it is not Rs. 400 crores, some amount has to be paid. By spending that money, can you not equip your own Department in a better way to do the job? The Indian Government has got Indian Embassies all over the world, in every part and in every country. They could well equip their units for pre-shipment inspection of goods to be imported by India from abroad. Therefore, I think this is not a simple one. This is parting with a State job to a multinational corporation and what is at stake is the economic sovereignty of our country and the economic independence of our country. Mr. Narayanasamy has rightly pointed out Mr. Rameshwar Thakur has stated, "What SGS stated was that they were prompted by the measures for industrial liberalisation introduced by the Government." It appears that we were alleging all these days' what will be the fall-out of the industrial liberalisation proposed by the IMF? This is the fall-out of the industrial liberalisation prompted by the International Monetary Fund or what is called the International Ministry of Finance and accepted by the Government of India. Now, I want a clear and categorical assurance from the Minister. I do not know whether he will run away as he did the day before yesterday. But he must give this assurance. I appeal to the Members on the other side also. From the statement itself, it appears it has not been finalised though it is already in the air that is has been finalised. I want a clear, categorical, assurance that nothing will be done, no letter of intent, no draft, will be signed unless all the provisions, all the undertakings, have been placed before Parliament and prior sanction of the Parliament of India has been obtained. Parliament is the supreme body. Government is the creation of Parliament. Parliament is not the creation of Government. So Government, before entering into any agreement must come before Parliament and get the approval of Parliament on it. I want a categorical assurance from the Minister on his issue.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI (Gujarat): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman. I disagree with my senior colleague when he says that the honourable Minister of State has denied this. On the contrary, I think that what he has given is a statement of confession. I call this piece of statement a statement of confession. And thank God, we raised this issue from all sides. Just imagine if this particular issue had not been raised in this august House the day before yesterday, what would have happened.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH), in the Chair]

You imagine this piece of confession tells he entire story, and that too at what breakneck special. Can you imagine? It so happens that suddenly some company from Switzerland appears on the scene. And the Minister here perhaps does not even know the full name of the company because nowhere have I seen him pronouncing the full name. I don't know if it is correct, it is the Secrete Generale de Surveillance. Mark the word 'surveillance'. This company is used for surveillance. And our honourable Minister of State for Finance says "I will always uphold the sovereignty of this country", etc., etc. May I say, very well, these are all high-sounding words, but what matters is your deed? It is very unfortunate that we have to even discuss today on the floor of this august House the sovereignty of this country, protecting the independence of this country. It is very unfortunate. The honourable Minister of State for Finance, his party, keeps on claiming to be standing by and vouching for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the great leader, the great patriot, of this great country—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Equally patriotic was Madam Indira Gandhi. And they also talk about the late Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi. I can tell you with whatever little knowledge I have—I don't claim to have all the knowledge—with whatever little knowledge I have I can vouch that they would not have come anywhere near the question, the question would never have arisen. But they keep on vouching for them all the time. Anyway, that is their business. But what is our business is, as long as we are here we will not let anybody sell this country, whether piecemeal or in a Jhatka. There are two ways of killing an animal. One is by halal and the other is by jhatka. The design today, it seems, is they are trying to do halal with this country. I am really in pain, I am in agony, and so many of my colleagues and the countrymen would be in agony—I think quite a few people don't even know about it. The very fact that such designs proportions. I do not know how they can even think of it. It is so very easy that somebody comes, then he talks; he has been introduced, as my hounourable friend, Mr. Narayanasamy, says, even to the Finance Minister, to the Finance Secretariat! And, sir, it does not end there. You do not know even today as to what he is going to charge you in terms of his fees. You have the wisdom of sending two of your seinor officers to Singapore and Indonesia to check things and find out as to how they opeate. I can tell you with all the knowledge that I have that had we not raised this issue the day before yesterday on the floor of this House, this particular thing would have gone through. But, thanks to the millions of the people of this country and thanks to the media exposure, today it has been brought to the notice of this House, not as a matter of a mere statement, but as a statement of confession.

What is the need for such a service? My senior colleague, Dipen Da, very rightly asked whether we did not have our trade representatives and our consultates abroad. Just to find out the price, as the honourable Minister of State for Finance has confessed in this statement, they have to use the services of a surveillance company and that company is going to charge—we have definite knowledge about it—Rs.400 crores and that will go on and on. So, as our imports go up, our exports will come down, and that also has been proved. This has to be in foreign exchange and that foreign exchange we have not earned. Let me make it very clear. About the foreign exchange reserves, way in and day out, you repeat through the media and say that they have gone up. They have not gone up, but what has gone up is our liability. This foreign exchange we have not earned. This is what we have to pay back with interest. And that interest comes from where? You are poor and then you talk about sending the sick units to the various institutions. How do you create sick industries? Healthy industries become sick only because of such policies. You can spend this amount of Rs. 400 crores

on some constructive work and not for such purposes which are going to divide the country and which would, in addition, bring the country to such a state where we would be beggars only and would be left with nothing. Sir, I am reminded of what Gandhiji said. When we got Independence, he said, and very correctly, that this independence was not enough and that unless and until we had economic freedom, India would not be totally free. What has been done today, either due to ignorance or something else, is to weaken this country day by day. Look at the inflation rate and yet you won't to pay Rs. 400 crores?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH): Please here me. You have to seek clarifications only and you have to put questions only.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: Yes, I am putting questions only. Sir, I was told that these people came on Saturday from Singapore, Indonesia, etc. and they filed the report on Saturday itself and on Sunday, it was formally approved as a whole. Sir, they talk about corruption in this. We all agree that there is some problem and we all want to be of some assistance in terms of finding ways and means and there is no denying the fact. This is a question of our pride. We have a lot of able people. When we go abroad, we find Indians in top positions. Can we not utilize their services? Can you not bring them back and give them something so that they can offer much better proposition. There is corruption in your police department and we all know it. Does it mean that you will hand over the police department to the Scotland Yard? Again, there may be some problem in your Finance Ministry and then would you call somebody from England to take over your Ministry? Would you bring Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, who is out of job now, or the IMF? I would like to have a specific assurance from the honourable Minister in this regard. It is evident that they have set the ball rolling and the contract would have been signed also. I would like to get an assurance from the honourable Minister that this particular thing has been salvaged. I can give you the guarantee that we will give you a lot of ideas on this. I would not like to say that, but if mentally you are bankrupt on the other side, we can give a lot of ideas. We can really give you a lot of ideas. (*Time bell*).

Sir, this is a question of pride and the very existance and sovereignty and independence of this country. We will not let that be bartered away by anybody, under no circumstances. So, I would plead with the Government to withdraw this. There is no question of considering this at any stage at all.

Thank you, Sir.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is the alert Members of this House that had raised this issue, and I am very happy that such issues are raised in this House, and the Minister how has to come with a statement.

Sir, I would like to ask one question first. Who were these officials who had gone to Singapore and Indonesia? When did they leave this country? When did they return back? And when did they submit a report? Sir, as far as I know, officials will not go without the permission of the Minister. They must have discussed with the Minister that this kind of scheme is there and we want to go and see for ourselves. So, I would like to know whether the officers have discussed with the Minister. And if it was discussed with the Minister, on the very day when this was raised, the Minister should have said, 'yes, though it is not a fact that we have entered into such kind of an agreement, however, some talks are going on'. What I want to know from the Minister is: Who were these officers? And as far as I know, the Chairman of the Central Board of Revenue, with one officer had gone there. If they had gone there, I want to know, whether they had discussed with the Minister or not before going, and if they discussed with the Minister, then why the Minister on that day did not disclose that. 'yes they have gone to some countries for this purpose.' If that was done, I would have thought that the Go-

[Shri Jagesh Desai]

vernment's intentions were clear.

Secondly, Sir, to my mind, this kind of thing, undrinvoicing and over-invoicing, is going on for the last 20 years. And this Company has got the cuts to say that because of industrial liberalisation, we have come to India.' If they had come for that purpose only, then the Minister should clear it that, "it has nothing to do with the industrial liberalisation, but we want to see that whatever revenue is lost on account of under-invoicing or over-invoicing, we have to stop it." They will get not only commission, but, I feel, by doing this, you will also encourage under invoicing because the shippers will know that this is the Company which is going to determine the price of this article, and they will have a deal with this Company—if I bought for Rs. 10,000 per tonne, I will say that I will buy at Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 6,000 per tonne, and you make it Rs. Rs. 6,000 per tonne, and you make it Rs. encouraging underinvoicing.

SHRI DINESHBHAI TRIVEDI: They have more faith in the foreigners than our own Indian people.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI: And this kind of corruption you are going to encourage. Secondly, are you going to give trade secrets and business secrets to a foreign agency? From whome I buy, nobody else should know. To whom I sell, no third party should know. Are you going to open these flood-gates of information to a foreign company? What will be happening to our Indian shippers? And these are the major questions which the Government should answer.

Lastly, I would like to know one thing from you. Please, for God's sake, if you have not taken a decision, do not take it. Don't mortgage our country. This country has produced so many talented people. And in the multinationals, as Mr. Manmohan Singh himself is saying, most of those who are heading the multinationals as their officers and technocrats are Indians. You have no faith in Indian people. That shows which way we are going. So, the Government must think over it. Please stop it. This is my earnest request from my heart. Don't mortgage this country. This country has talented people. Take help from them. Our trade missions are there. Give this work to them. Let them do it. And then, most of these items are imported only now, and there prices are known. Most of these are traditional items. Take for example, petroleum products. Prices are known the world over. Then take machinery items. Prices are known to everybody. How are you going to benefit by giving one per cent commission to this multi-national company? That is what I read in the newspapers that you are going to pay one per cent commission.

Then the question arises whether a country which is a member of GATT can enter into this kind of an agreement with a country which is not a member of GATT. Singapore is not a member of GATT. This aspect also needs to be looked into.

I pray and earnestly request the Government. Please don't disgrace this country by having a foreign multi-national company, a Swiss company for this job at the cost of our own Indian talent which is recognised throughout the world. You can take their help.

श्री सुरेश पचौरी (मध्य प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि जो एस.जी.एस. ने अपनी सेवाएं प्रस्तुत की हैं हमारी उदार नीति से आकर्षित होकर, क्या मंत्री जी ने यह जानने की कोशिश की है कि इसने अन्य देशों को भी कुछ इसी प्रकार की सेवाएं उपलब्ध कराने का वचन दिया है। यदि हां तो वे कौन कौन से देश हैं। उन देशों से हमारे कैसे संबंध हैं। दूसरा, एक बहुत बड़ा नेटवर्क मल्टी नेशनल कम्पनीज का काम कर रहा है जो किस देश में बिजिनेस प्वाइंट आफ व्यू से क्या हो रहा है और इसके माध्यम से उस देश की गतिविधियों में कैसे पेनीट्रेट किया जा सकता है उस बात का आकलन करता है। जो हमारे इम्पोर्टेड आइटम्स हैं किसी भी कम्पनी से कन्सर्न्ड क्यों न हों किसी भी व्यवसाय

से संबंधित क्यों न हों जब कस्टम्स का वैल्युएशन मल्टी नेशनल कम्पनी के माध्यम से आ जाएगा तो उनका कंप्यूटराइजेशन होने की वजह से एक ही समय में जानकारी उन सारे देशों को उपलब्ध हो जाएगी जिनसे इन मल्टी नेशनल कम्पनीज का सम्पर्क है। लिहाजा यह बहुत खतरनाक बात है। जहां हमारे अन्य माननीय सदस्यों ने यह चिंता व्यक्त की है और आशंका जाहिर की है कि कोई सीक्रेसी मेन्टेन नहीं हो पाएगी वह तो है ही, हमारे देश की जो आंतरिक स्थिति है उसकी भी जानकारी इनको उपलब्ध हो जाएगी। जब मंत्री जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में यह कहा है कि उनका ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है, यदि ऐसा कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है तो किस आशय से और किस तात्पर्य से दो अधिकारियों ने सिंगापुर और इंडोनेशिया का दौरा किया, क्या जब एस.जी.एस. ने सेवाएं प्रस्तुत करने की बात कही थी उससे पहले उन्होंने दौरा किया या उसके बाद किया और वैसे ही हमारे यहां अधिकारियों की विदेश यात्रा पर बहुत ज्यादा सख्ती है क्या इन्होंने विदेश जाने के पूर्व परमिशन ली? यदि ली तो किस स्तर तक की अनुमति दी गयी और इनकी विदेश यात्रा के संबंध में इन दो अधिकारियों का खर्च किसने उठाया। ये बहुत महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है। क्योंकि कुछ समाचार पत्रों में यह आशंका जाहिर की गयी है कि वे जो दो अधिकारी इंडोनेशिया और सिंगापुर की यात्रा पर गये थे उनका खर्च इन मल्टी नेशनल कम्पनीज ने उठाया। क्या सरकार इस बात की जांच करेगी कि वहां उनका खर्च किस स्तर पर और किसके द्वारा उठाया गया। महोदय, अब यह बात कही जाती है कि हमारे पास बेल इक्विप्ड एक्सेसरीज नहीं हैं, जितना हम कमीशन दे रहे हैं यदि उतनी राशि में बेल इक्विप्ड एक्सेसरीज ले लें ...। तो हमारे अधिकारियों की दक्षता के बारे में प्रश्नवाचक चिन्ह नहीं लगाना चाहिए। उनकी जो एफिशेंसी है, उनकी जो कैपेबिलिटी है, वह अपने आप में बहुत सराहनीय है और हमें गर्व है उनके भारतीय होने के नाते कि वह राष्ट्रीय हित में काम करेंगे।

यदि हम मल्टी-नेशनल कंपनीज को यहां लेकर आयेंगे और उनसे असेसमेंट करायेंगे, तो वह राष्ट्रहित में काम करेंगे, इस बात की कोई गुंजाइश नहीं है।

लिहाजा मैं आपके माध्यम से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या मंत्री जी निकट भविष्य में ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे कि कस्टम्स अधिकारियों को बेल-इक्विप्ड एक्सेसरीज प्रदान की जाए, ताकि उनको वह सब कमी न खले जिसकी वजह से वे दक्षता नहीं बता पाते है जिस दक्षता का बहाना करके इन मल्टी-नेशनल्ज को असेसमेंट देने की जिम्मेदारी देने पर यह सरकार विचार करने जा रही है।

मैं आपके माध्यम से यही जानकारी चाहता हूं।

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I congratulate the media for protecting our economic sovereignty, by exposing this issue.

After going through the statement, I fear that this Government may invite some foreign agency, or, some foreign company, or, some foreign country, one day or the other, to rule this country. I fear that they will invite them, with a warm welcome, with red-carpet, to rule this country. This is my apprehension.

Is it not disgraceful to our country? Does it not mean mortgaging our interests? Is it not selling out our economic sovereignty to foreigners? What will happen to the soul of Mahatma Gandhi? What will happen to the soul of all those people who sacrificed their lives for the sake of the country?

When I see the statement I find that paragraph 1 and paragraph 5 are contradictory to each other. In paragraph 1, the Minister has categorically denied handing over the Customs appraisement

[Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy]

work to a Swiss multinational company. Whereas, in paragraph 5, he has said that they have not, so far, even come to the stage of indicating their charges for the services offered. The Minister says: 'Thus, there is no decision or commitment to use their services'. This clearly shows that there is some idea to hand over the appraisement work to the Swiss multinational company.

The Minister has also said that the IMF and the World Bank have nothing to do with this. In the same paragraph, he says: 'The SGS stated that they were prompted by the measures for industrial liberalisation introduced by the Government'. Who is responsible for industrial liberalisation? Everybody knows that it is the IMF and the World Bank who are responsible for industrial liberalisation measures of the Government. Therefore, indirectly, he has admitted that there is pressure, there is influence, by the IMF and the World Bank, on this issue.

Therefore, Sir, this Government is mortgaging our economic sovereignty to a foreign country. But without economic sovereignty, there is no question of political sovereignty. My suggestion is, if the Government has not taken any decision so far, please, for heaven's sake, for God's sake, don't take it. If the decision has already been taken, please withdraw the decision. For this, I want the Minister to give a categorical assurance in the House. Thank you.

MESSAGES FROM THE LOK SABHA

(1) The Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991.

(2) The Constitution (Seventy-third Amendment) Bill, 1991.

(3) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, 1991.

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to report to the House the following messages received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of th Lok Sabha:

(1)

"I am directed to inform you tha Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Friday, the 20th December, 1991, adopted the enclosed motion in regard to the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991.

I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha appointed to the Joint Committee, may be communicated to this House."

MOTION

"That the Bill further to amend the Constitution of India viz, the Constitution (Seventy-second Amendment) Bill, 1991 (Insertion of a new part IX and addition of Eleventh Schedule) be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 members, 20 from this House namely:—

(1) Shri Mani Shankar Aiyar
(2) Shri Lal Jan S. M. Basha
(3) Shri H. D. Devegowda
(4) Shri Digvijaya Singh
(5) Shri Bhogendra Jha
(6) Shri D. D. Khanoria
(7) Shri M. Krishnaswamy
(8) Shri Nathuram Mirdha
(9) Shri Nitish Kumar
(10) Shri Rameshwar Patidar
(11) Smt. Suryakanta Patil
(12) Shri R. Ramasamy
(13) Dr. Sudhir Ray
(14) Dr. Sakshiji Maharaj Swami
(15) Shri P. M. Sayeed
(16) Shri Rampal Singh
(17) Shri Satya Deo Singh
(18) Shri Shiv Sharan Sinha
(19) Prof. K. V. Thomas
(20) Shri Mukul Balkrishna Wasnik

and 10 from Rajya Sabha;